PREDICTIONS TO GET YOU PSYCHED

METRO SPOKE WITH TWO PSYCHICS WHO SAW A JUICY 2013 FOR SWIFT, BIEBER AND MORE PAGE 16

HERE'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN

*OR YOUR MONEY BACK

Keep your eyes peeled ...

Hollywood's churning out a fresh batch of films in 2013, from the Star Trek sequel to Joseph Gordon-Levitt's modern take on Don Juan PAGES 46 & 47

... and your ears perked

Covering folk to post-punk to hip hop, meet some of music's freshest faces PAGE 34

See you next year

Metro will not be publishing for the rest of December. Look for us again on Jan. 2

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5 NEWS

Metro asked five notable personalities the burning question on everyone's minds for the new year:

What new food carts would you like to see on Van City streets in 2013?

METRO VANCOUVER STAFF
vancouver@metronews.ca

1

JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

Bob Lenarduzzi, Whitecaps FC president

Because of my Italian heritage and having been spoilt by my mother's cooking over the years, I'd love to see some food carts that have a variety of pasta options. At the moment, I don't know if any of them exist downtown but given my love of Italian food, that's a must. And I'm not picky, they can sell any type of pasta. What's more is I'd love to see one of those carts right outside The Landing, which is the building that accommodates our office in Gastown.

2

CONTRIBUTED

Raffi Cavoukian, musician

With current gluten allergies and sensitivity, it'd be great for food carts to have gluten-free foods and snacks!

3

Jillian Harris, designer, The Bachelorette

BeetRoll Queen Truck. Featuring, of course ... Granny Marge's Famous BeetRolls (Marjorie is Jillian's grandma).

CONTRIBUTED

4

Shane Foxman, sports anchor, CBC Vancouver

I would love to see a deli food truck.... Pastrami, corned beef, maybe some coleslaw and potato salad and, of course, a pickle. A good sandwich is underrated.

CONTRIBUTED

5

Nat and Drew, Virgin Radio 953

Nat Hunter: One word — cake. Enough said.

Drew Savage: It's hard to fathom that a city that offers everything from mac-and-cheese to Japadogs could still use more food carts, but where's the bacon-themed food cart? Everything tastes better with bacon.

CONTRIBUTED

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10 THINGS THAT HAVE A 50-50 CHANCE OF COMING TRUE

URBAN COMPASS
Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

Well, there went another year.

We barely have time to take back the four-foot sunburst wall clock before it's time to start thinking about Christmas 2013.

That's if the world didn't end on Dec. 21, à la the Mayan calendar. However, there's a slim chance we'll still be around, though hung over, the morning of Jan. 1, so you may find Sullivan's Fearless Predictions for 2013 useful.

Remember, these have at least a 50-50 chance of being right, which puts me on the same exalted plane as Merlin the Astrologer and the Conference Board of Canada:

• **Adrian Dix will not win the 2013 provincial election.** At the last minute, voters have a change of heart when they realize they don't have the faintest idea what he plans to do if elected. Christy Clark is equally enigmatic, but she's been the premier for over a year and hasn't broken the furniture yet.

• **Housing prices will continue to fall.** By the end of the year, you should be able to buy your way into a decrepit duplex in PoCo three metres from the railroad tracks for the equivalent of the GNP of Luxembourg.

• **Zoo solves animal mortality problem.** The Greater Vancouver Zoo ships all the live animals back to Africa and replaces them with plush cuddly replicas. "Cold weather? No problem!" gushes spokesperson.

• **Smart meters rule.** BC Hydro installs the final smart meter early in the new year, ensuring that 100 per cent of households are on the program. The meters immediately demand a million dollars from every citizen, threatening to expose web-surfing histories unless there's immediate compliance.

• **Bike paths go where no one has gone before.** City hall establishes a bike path on North Granville and all the cyclists are run over by buses. "That's our patch," explains a spokesman for CAW Local 111.

• **Yet another quake off the coast of Vancouver Island.** As long as it stays off the coast of Vancouver Island.

• **Province closes Port Mann Bridge.** And promises to reopen it only if all those people from the Valley pony up the $1.7 billion in unpaid tolls.

• **New offer in hockey lockout.** On Day 445 of the lockout, Gary Bettman and the owners table a new offer to the players. Bettman calls it the owners' best offer yet. "That's because," offers a frustrated Donald Fehr of the players' union, "it's identical to the last 15 offers they made."

• **Vancouver breaks record for longest streak of rainy days.** And there's no hockey. "At least you don't have to shovel it," says Gary Bettman.

• **Amnesty for Marc Emery.** Now that he never has to get elected again, U.S. President Barack Obama frees pot activist Marc Emery. Emery is then stopped by Canada Border Services at Blaine and refused entry. "That's OK," he says. "I'll just stay here and go into business for myself."

Metro asks: What's your prediction for 2013?

Lis McMillan, 21, Halifax

"It will probably be a lot like (2012). Cold in the winter. Warmer in the summer. Probably a couple superstorms."

Helen Litam, 23, Richmond

"No more (MTV's) 16 and Pregnant people."

Katrina Lat, 20, London, Ont.

"Walt Disney will be removed from his current cryogenically frozen state, and brought in to help direct Star Wars: Episode 7."

Ali Hancharyk, 27, Winnipeg

"2013 will see popular music deteriorate to the point of solely consisting of just beeping noises and laser sounds."

Lorissa Good, 37, Calgary

"Same-sex marriages will be allowed in more U.S. states once they realize how much money gay people spend on parties."

Kevin Kirouac, 43, Edmonton

"I predict a female, black prime minister for the country. It would shock everybody." (Ed's note: Shocking since there's no federal election in 2013.)

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Wacky weather on tap for 2013

Environment Canada. Climatologist predicts new year will bring another active hurricane season — following a trend of the past 3 years

PHOEBE HO
For Metro in Toronto

Mother Nature has another warm and wacky year on tap for 2013, says Environment Canada.

With the destructive Superstorm Sandy barely off our radars, senior climatologist David Phillips predicts there's more to come.

"I think there'll be weird, wild and wacky weather," he says. "We live in a planet of extremes. It's not just sandstorms in the Middle East — it could be blizzards in Edmonton. We know on a planet of extreme weather. There's no utopia."

Phillips warns Canadians to expect "more hiccups, more body blows when it comes to weather, 'cause we've seen that and there's nothing to suggest that trend will change."

A stop sign stands askew after being blown by Hurricane Isaac on Aug. 29 in New Orleans. Environment Canada climatologist David Phillips predicts 2013 will follow a similar weather pattern as was seen this past year. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

One of the big indicators is the ongoing weather trends. The world has been in an active weather period for the last two decades, says Phillips, especially the last three years, which have seen 19 tropical storms each. With El Nino — a global climate pattern associated with the warming of the surface water in the Pacific Ocean — hanging on in 2013, creating not just warm weather but also favourable winds, Phillips says, next year will likely be another active hurricane season.

"The world is warmer, and when you get the warm world, you get more powerful weather," he says.

While he can't predict exactly how many storms 2013 will bring about, Phillips says one thing's for sure: Don't expect things to cool off in Canada or anywhere else in the world.

The last time the world encountered a colder-than-normal year was 35 years ago, according to Phillips. Judging from the weather trends, El Nino and the vanishing Arctic ice, he says, it's safe to say it will be another warm year.

"Stick a thermometer in the planet — you're seeing global fever," he says. "I'd be the most surprised person on this planet if in fact it showed that the world is colder than normal.... And as the world goes, so goes Canada. We represent a lot of real estate of this planet."

But whatever happens, Phillips believes Canadians are ready for anything mother nature has in store for this weather-proofed nation.

"Canadians are all expert weather people. We can't get enough weather," he says. "What will we talk about if we didn't have the weather to talk about?"

Quoted

"We live in a planet of extremes.... We know on a planet of extreme weather, there's no utopia."

David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada

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The future of endangered species

With 2012 seeing the largest mass of summer ice melting in the Arctic in modern history, it's no surprise experts predict more of the same for 2013. The melting ice has implications for some of Canada's most threatened species. Metro spoke with World Wildlife Fund scientist and researcher Pete Ewin, who said global warming will continue to produce winners and losers

ELISHA DACEY
Metro in Winnipeg

The losers

Narwhal

Narwhals, called the "Unicorns of the Sea" due to their long, sharp tusks, need deep under-packed Arctic ice because it provides them shelter from predators. Less ice means less defence.

Polar bears

Polar bears are hugely dependent on sea ice for their food supply. Less ice means fewer chances of fattening up on ringed seals, their primary food, which keeps them nourished the rest of the year around. Ewing said polar bears will eventually be found only further north, and have been eating more seaweed and kelp in recent years to keep their bellies full.

Ringed seals

Warmer waters and less ice mean fewer resting places for the ringed seal. Ringed seals usually pup on large ice floes and spend most of their lives in contact with ice or icy waters. Smaller ice floes keep these solitary animals from spreading out like they're used to doing.

The winners

Killer whales

Considered a threatened species, killer whales are making a comeback in areas with warmer temperatures and warmer waters. Warmer waters in the north means killer whales will be found there with more frequency.

Other seals

The decline of the ringed seal will mean more food for other types of seal. Harp seals, which like colder waters but not ice, may move in, affecting the diet of other animals and the Inuit, many of whom rely on ringed seals for food.

Some salmon

Different species of salmon used to warmer waters will start to replace other species of salmon. This will also attract killer whales, whose primary food source is salmon.

Keeping transit moving in Metro Vancouver

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Prepaid Fares		ADULT	CONCESSION
Monthly FareCard Monthly transit passes are eligible for federal tax credits	1 ZONE	$91.00	$52.00 *for all zones*
	2 ZONES	$124.00	
	3 ZONES	$170.00	
FareSaver Tickets Book of 10	1 ZONE	$21.00	$17.50*
	2 ZONES	$31.50	*N/A*
	3 ZONES	$42.00	*N/A*
DayPass		$9.75	$7.50

*Concession FareSavers are available for 1 Zone travel only. Travel through 2 or more zones requires the purchase of an AddFare during the regular fare period.

West Coast Express fares also increase January 1, 2013. Visit **translink.ca/wce** for more information.

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10 things forecast to happen in 2013

Obama's second inauguration will see yet another inspirational speech by the president, but can he inspire the U.S. economy to recovery? GETTY IMAGES

Jan. 21: Four more years

Barack Obama is sworn in for a second (and final) term as president of the United States. Inauguration Day begins with a church service, after which the president and his family travel to Capitol Hill, where the chief justice of the Supreme Court will administer the oath. Obama will then deliver his inaugural address. The day ends with inaugural balls.

Feb. 10: Year of the Snake

Chinese New Year begins the Year of the Snake. According to Chinese astrology, a person born in the Year of the Snake is very wise and can be a theologian, as well as a smart banker. She also has good taste in food and fashion but is not frivolous. Sounds like a good year to have babies.

March 20: UN says be happy

First-ever International Happiness Day. The day, sponsored by the UN, is the latest move towards establishing happiness as a key factor in comparing nations. A number of countries, including Britain, now have official National Happiness Indexes. The Smiley emoticon, meanwhile, celebrated its 30th birthday in September 2012.

March 21: Closure of Alcatraz, 50 years ago

Will Sean Connery be back? Fifty years ago, Alcatraz closed. The world's most famous prison (known as "The Rock") housed America's most infamous prisoners, including Al Capone. Thirty-six escape attempts were made, but none are known to have succeeded. But Connery's character in the movie, The Rock, did succeed.

June 14: Open race in Iran election

Iran holds presidential elections. Firebrand Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has served two terms as president and is ineligible to run again. So, the race is wide open, with analysts reading the tea leaves to see which candidate Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will support. The outcome of the election will be closely watched by the world as Iran is currently on a confrontation course with the international community over its nuclear program.

June 29: Ready, steady, cycle

The Tour de France begins today, dramatically scrubbed of the memory of Lance Armstrong, who's been stripped of his seven Tour wins over doping allegations. Bradley Wiggins, the Brit who won the race in 2012 and the 2012 Olympic gold in the road time trial, has turned down the chance to defend his title, agreeing instead to support his teammate Chris Froome's bid for glory.

July 1: EU welcomes Croatia

Croatia becomes the 28th member of the European Union. Its neighbour and on-and-off foe, Serbia, is still negotiating membership. And Turkey will make a renewed push for EU membership starting on this date, when Lithuania takes over the rotating EU presidency.

September: Merkel faces vote

Another victory for the Iron Chancellor? Germany goes to the polls in parliamentary elections. While Angela Merkel remains popular in terms of personality, her coalition government may not survive the election, as the Liberal Democrats, the junior partner, are languishing at four per cent of the vote in polls. Merkel's CDU gets 36 per cent, compared to 30 per cent for the Social Democrats. The Pirate Party is also running, as are the Greens.

Nov. 14: Charles turns 65

Even though he's now retirement age, heir to the British throne Prince Charles may have to wait for yet some time to become King. At age 86, his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, remains in good health. The Queen's mother lived to be 101 years old.

Nov. 22: JFK remembered

50th anniversary of the assassination of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy. JFK was killed by gunshots while visiting Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald, an American who had moved to the Soviet Union, was arrested but killed by nightclub operator Jack Ruby before he could stand trial. Mystery still surrounds JFK's murder. The anniversary will be commemorated in Dallas.

ELISABETH BRAW/METRO WORLD NEWS

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*Models shown are the 2013 Forester 2.5X 5MT (DJ1 XO) / 2013 Outback 2.5i Convenience 6MT (DD1 CP) with MSRP of $28,015 / $30,515 including freight & PDI ($1,595), documentation fees ($395) and battery and tire tax ($30). License, taxes, insurance and registration extra. †$2,000 cash incentive is for cash customers only and is available on all new 2013 Forester models. Cannot be combined with Subaru Canada supported lease/finance rates or Holiday Bonus. **0.5%/ 0.9% finance and lease rates available on all new 2013 Forester / 2013 Outback models for a 24-month term. Financing and leasing programs available through Toyota Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. ***$500 Holiday Bonus offer applies only to lease and finance agreements for all new 2013 Forester / 2013 Outback models. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. **/***/†Offers valid until January 3, 2013. See your local Subaru dealer or www.western.subarudealer.ca for complete details.

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5 hotspots to watch in 2013

These countries make headlines around the world. They face civil unrest, displaced civilians, and even the possibility of nuclear war. Metro asked Matt Ferrell, a political-science professor at Fanshawe College in London, Ont., to help predict what the world's newsmakers might look like in 2013. Here is a brief look at some of the world's hot spots and the possibilities they might meet in 2013

ANDREW SERCOMBE
For Metro

Syria

What is the issue? Between 2.5 million and three million people have been displaced by civil conflict that erupted in March 2011.

Future best-case scenario: Current Syrian leadership steps down, allowing oppositional groups to coalesce and put together a functioning government.

Future worst-case scenario: Civil conflict continues and escalates. Russia and China, who support the leadership in Syria, stall international intervention and protect the current Syrian government.

Probable scenario: With the support of Russia and China, the Syrian government continues a war against oppositional groups, stalling the country's development and its aid to displaced citizens.

Iran

What is the issue? Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons could provoke an attack from Israel.

Future best-case scenario: Diplomatic resolution.

Future worst-case scenario: Israel launches pre-emptive nuclear strike against Iran. The United States — Israel's main supporter — is forced to become involved.

Probable scenario: Iran's military continues to possess more political control than the country's government. Iran continues to pursue nuclear weapons despite an international push for more sanctions.

Libya

What is the issue? Militia groups are overrunning a dissolving central government.

Future best-case scenario: Civil society triumphs. The central government is able to reinstate its power, and the country is able to restore democracy in place of the extremist groups.

Future worst-case scenario: Factionalism persists and internal conflict between the many mini-governments fighting the central government destroys the country.

Probable scenario: Civil unrest continues as militia groups struggle for power with the central government.

Afghanistan

What is the issue? Security in the country is very poor. Afghanistan's government struggles to protect civilians from military conflict between American forces and the Taliban.

Future best-case scenario: The United States removes troops from Afghanistan by 2014, and the government is left stable and functioning.

Future worst-case scenario: Conflict continues between the Afghan military and Taliban. The government dissolves, and Pakistan enters the conflict, supporting the Taliban.

Probable scenario: The United States will withdraw in 2014. Afghanistan will be left a divided country. On paper the mission will appear a success, but in reality the country will still suffer from conflicting factions.

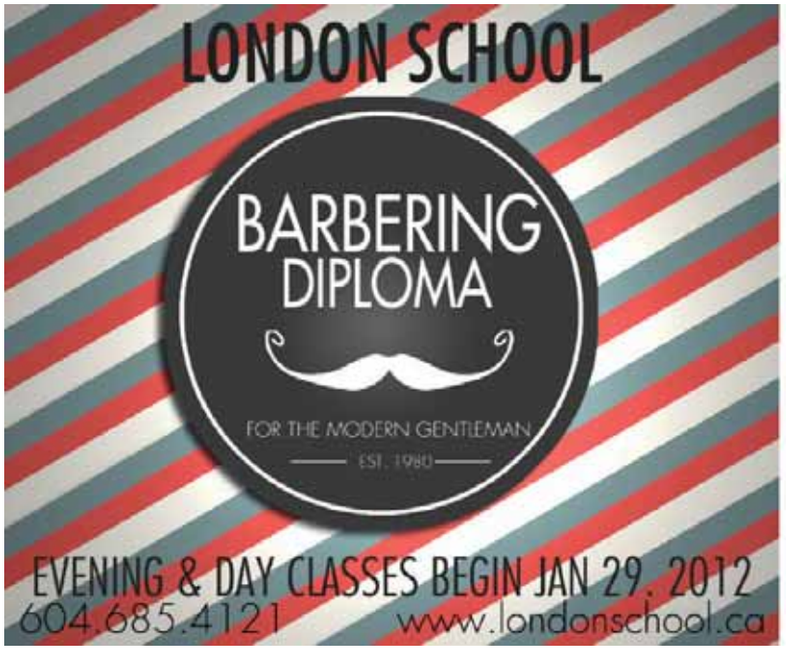
North Korea

What is the issue? Too much of the North Korean government's budget is invested in the military, rather than infrastructure development, leaving the country with a low domestic product.

Future best-case scenario: China acts as peacemaker between North Korea and South Korea. North Korea installs more moderate leadership.

Future worst-case scenario: The conflict between North Korea and South Korea escalates, forcing international intervention.

Probable scenario: New North Korean leader Kim Jong Un continues the policies of the past.



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Assad ousted, space tourism becomes a reality, Usain Bolt retires

Hypothetical stories that **may** dominate the news in 2013

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Assad escapes Syria and bunks over with Chavez

Syria leader Bashar al-Assad is ousted from power by rebel forces but manages to escape to Venezuela as an asylum seeker.

Assad's initial preference for political sanctuary in Russia came to naught after talks with his former ally collapsed following Vladimir Putin's unexpected emergency treatment for cancer.

"Yes, there was a time when I would have preferred Vladimir, or Uncle Volodya as my kids call him, but Hugo is not a bad backup — he's got a swimming pool," Assad tells reporters at a press conference in Simón Bolívar airport outside Caracas.

First commercial space tourists have a blast

The world's first commercial space flights have taken place — and without a hitch. After years of investment and planning, a fleet of three spacecraft took off at Roswell, New Mexico, and safely returned to the planet within half an hour.

The first passengers, a group of billionaire businessmen from Eastern Europe and the Middle East, spoke of their delight in spotting their countless estates and mansions from the heavens. On whether or not they managed to see the receding ice in the Arctic, they declined to comment. Meanwhile, environmental scientists have been at pains to underline that space flights and their carbon emissions are not eco-friendly and thus contributing to the melting of the polar caps.

Usain Bolt swaps track spikes for soccer cleats

Usain Bolt yesterday announced his retirement from sprinting.

"I'm tired of just running," the fastest man in the world told his fans on Twitter.

Bolt will now take up a newly created part-time position as a winger with Manchester United.

"I hope we finally find a proper replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo. Even though he'll only be with us for half the season, Bolt will be able to bring both the Premier League and the Champions' League trophies back to Old Trafford," club manager Sir Alex Ferguson told reporters.

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EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Metro asks two psychics to tell us what's coming up next year in entertainment, sports and politics. First up is Psychic Nikki, a Toronto-based clairvoyant who says she predicted Hurricane Sandy, Barack Obama's first presidential win and the Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes split. Below, Calgary-based clairvoyant Kim Dennis, a regular guest on TV and radio programs, gives her vision of the new year.

LISA WILTON
calgary@metronews.ca

PSYCHIC NIKKI SAYS

What's in store for some big-name celebrities and celebrity couples?
Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie will marry, and I see another child. But she has to watch her health.

Jennifer Aniston will have a child, or at least pregnancy and a marriage. But I also see another man besides (fiancé) Justin Theroux.

I see a marriage for Kim Kardashian.

Taylor Swift has to be careful around transportation. I see a handsome cowboy type around her, possibly business and romance combined.

(The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) may have a set of twins in the future.

Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake may have a kid, but their marriage is doomed in the future when one of them has a roving eye.

Justin Bieber will do more acting. There could a sitcom. He has to be careful of fast cars or red ones.

Helen Hunt will be nominated for an Academy Award for The Surrogate and Keira Knightley for Anna Karenina. Meryl Streep may be nominated again. Daniel Day-Lewis will be nominated for Lincoln and Sir Anthony Hopkins could also receive an Oscar nomination.

How will the political landscape change in the next year?
Prime Minister Stephen Harper will work well with the American president, but there could be a crisis where he is tested. He also has to watch for danger.

(U.S.) President (Barack) Obama will try to turn the economy around, but it will be hard with all the natural disasters coming. He is in extreme danger during the next four years and he may not finish his term.

Vice-President Joe Biden has to watch health and danger also. He could be replaced maybe by a woman.

It will take a long time for the economy to pick up because of natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks, and wars in the Middle East and Asia. But there could be a gold rush in Canada.

So, what are these natural disasters you speak of? Should vacationers avoid certain areas in the next year?
I see a lot of earthquake activity on the West Coast of the United States right up to British Columbia and Alaska. There will be earthquakes in the Middle East, China and Japan. Also Mexico, South American, New York City, Quebec, Virginia, Washington and Tennessee. I would try to avoid coastal areas.

What are your sports predictions?
I see a famous Formula One driver being killed in a fiery crash and I think there will be a sex scandal in the NHL.

Obama's reading

"He is in extreme danger during the next four years and he may not finish his term."

Psychic Nikki, about U.S. President Barack Obama's political future.

Tough to believe, but things could get worse for the NHL. GETTY IMAGES

ISTOCK

KIM DENNIS/CONTRIBUTED

PSYCHIC KIM SAYS

On Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux:
I think they'll probably get married. I think she's found the one. I think there might be twins.

On Taylor Swift:
The thing with Taylor Swift is she shouldn't be settling down with anyone right now.

She's supposed to be dating in her twenties. I think it's just people's perception that she's always heartbroken. She's taking her time finding love. I think she'll fall in love this year at least twice. I think she's right on track. She's doing what she's supposed to be doing.

On the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge:
It feels like it will be a girl with blond hair.

On Justin Bieber:
I think he'll be a legend like Donny Osmond. I think his success will continue to soar.

On politics:
I think Obama will do a great job during the next four years. After him, the next president will be another first. It won't be a woman, but maybe a Latino president. And I think he might be a Democrat.

Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi will get in again. He'll be mayor for a while.

Justin Trudeau will win Liberal leadership, but I don't see him becoming prime minister. I think Stephen Harper will get elected again.

Quebec won't separate. There will always be a group who wants to, but the province will stay in Canada.

Other predictions:
I think (Ugandan war criminal) Joseph Kony will be caught.

Something's going to rock the Catholic Church. I know they've had lots of controversy. But it might be something that brings it to its knees.

I think somebody big, like a Monsignor, will reveal something that will shake up the Catholic Church.

I think there will be a tsunami again just after Christmas. I see the South Pacific, maybe around Australia.

There will be some sort of marijuana legalization in the next two years.

LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

Burnin' down the House

"There will be some sort of marijuana legalization in the next two years. The government will do it quickly and quietly."

Psychic Kim Dennis

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10 people to watch in 2013

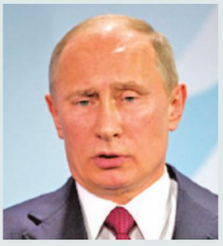
William and Kate

With a baby on its way in the summer, the royal couple will dominate the news throughout the winter and spring. Indeed, since celebrity babies are manna from heaven for the media, they'll dominate the news throughout the year. And they'll single-handedly keep tabloids afloat, not to mention the bookmakers, who are already reporting a betting frenzy on the baby's name. Top odds so far are for Mary, Elizabeth, Victoria, John and George.

Lady Gaga

In 2012, long periods of time went by without any news from the often-controversial international pop sensation. If it continues like this, she'll soon lose her crown as the most followed on Twitter to rival popstress Rihanna. Stay tuned for more outrageous dresses.

Vladimir Putin



Never one to stay out of the public eye, the Russian president has surprised the public by not staging any recent photo shoots. Watchers debate whether he's suffering from serious illness. Or, having recently fired two government ministers, is he simply busy cleaning up the country's corruption?

Arthur Mutambara

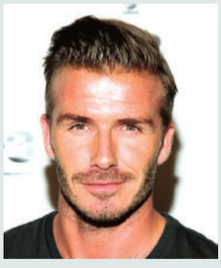
The new Mugabe? In March, Zimbabwe holds parliamentary elections — and if they're free and fair, voters are likely to boot out veteran leader Robert Mugabe. People may turn to Mutambara and his party, the Movement for Democratic Change-Mutambara faction.

Peer Steinbrück

The anti-Merkel. German Chancellor Angela Merkel needs an opponent in the parliamentary election, so the Social Democrats have recruited veteran government minister Steinbrück. And, given that Merkel's coalition is down in the polls, Steinbrück could become Germany's next chancellor.

David Beckham

The soccer veteran is leaving LA Galaxy, but where will he go next? Rumour has it that Beckham is headed for France — that country would certainly be the best option for wife Victoria's growing fashion business. Alternatively, he could become a full-time underwear model, or even an actor.

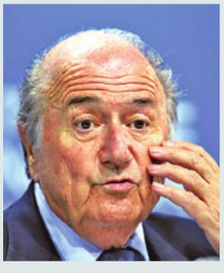


Rupert Murdoch

The "Dirty Digger" has had a rough time as of late. Britain's hacking scandal forced him to publicly apologize — and close his News Of The World tabloid. He even had to fire his crown princess, Rebekah Brooks. And now he has closed his tablet newspaper, The Daily. But the 81-year-old is used to punching back.

Sepp Blatter

With racism and corruption in soccer presenting an ever-growing problem, the most powerful man in world sports is under scrutiny. And with the 2014 World Cup in Brazil around the corner, Blatter has to act soon to clean up The Beautiful Game's ugly image.



François Hollande

The French socialist made headlines as the winner of France's presidential election. But now he's been in the news mostly on account of the battle between ex-partner Segolene Royal and current girlfriend Valerie Trierweiler. In 2013 Hollande has to act decisively to restore his credibility.

Michelle Bachelet

Chile's first female president, now leader of the world's female population at UN Women, may return to politics by entering the 2013 presidential race in Chile. If she wins the election, this personable ex-doctor is poised to become Latin America's Angela Merkel.

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BB10 highlights

1 Predictive touchscreen keyboard. The key tiles are a little wider, with a border line running between the letter tiles. As you type, the device tries to predict what word you plan to use, displaying that word above the letter. If the predictive text is correct, you can flick up to select. It learns the names and slang terms that you use regularly.

2 Active Flow. Multitasking with several apps open on your mobile is generally not a great experience. BB10 tackles this issue with Active Flow, which allows users to run up to eight applications at a time on a grid view, making for easy switching back and forth. There's another function called Peek that allows you to momentarily shrink the app you're currently working in to show who sent an email and let you decide whether it requires an immediate response.

3 Time Shift photography. With this very cool feature, the camera actually records a series of images before and after you hit the button to take a photo. It then allows you to move forward or backward in time to select the best image. It works really well for shots of people, as the software recognizes faces and lets you select the best frame for everyone in the picture.

4 BLackBerry World. Formerly known as BlackBerry AppWorld, it will be the new hub to buy apps but will also offer movies, TV shows and films, creating a similar experience to the iTunes store. BlackBerry's PR staff say the company has more than 7,000 development kits around the world and the conversion process for apps developed for Android is a short, 10-minute process. They would not say how many apps would be available at launch.

5 Messenger. BlackBerry's killer app was always Messenger, and the company promises improvements in BB10. The new look has been upgraded, with contacts listing the social-media profiles of people on your friends list. It will also offer the recently unveiled BlackBerry 7 upgrade that allows for voice calls over Wi-Fi. When asked if a video-chat option would be available, the company said it had no announcements at this time.

RIM seeks redemption with BlackBerry 10

Old and new. Sneak peek reveals software modernized but key features preserved

RIM president and CEO Thorsten Heins at a conference in San Jose, Calif. ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The potential resurgence of RIM starts on the 30th of January. That's when the Waterloo, Ont.-based company launches its new BlackBerry 10 software and reveals new hardware.

A sneak peek earlier this month showed the new version of the company's flagship software has been rebuilt from the ground up.

The interface is surprisingly elegant — a word that does not jive at all with its past software efforts, best described as utilitarian.

Hardcore Berry fans can be reassured that even as the company moves to a more touchscreen-friendly experience, it has maintained the red-light indicator for new notifications and email is always at a slide of the thumb on the left side of the screen: Proof RIM realizes access to instant communication is one of its hereditary advantages.

Of course, this first look was done in a very controlled environment, and no new hardware was shown — how these two factors interact in the real world will be the true measure of success.

The company's new-year launch plans include the first BlackBerry 10 touch device, with a resolution of 1280 x 720, and later a 720 x 720 resolution device with a dedicated keyboard.

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After the holiday season, recycle your live, cut Christmas tree. Remove all the decorations and tinsel from the tree and use one of the following options:

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Saturday, January 5 and Sunday, January 6, between 10 am - 4 pm at these locations:

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- **Kitsilano Beach parking lot** Cornwall Avenue and Arbutus Street
- **Sunset Beach upper parking lot** Beach Avenue and Broughton Street
- **Rona Home & Garden Grandview Store** 2727 East 12th Avenue – overflow parking lot north of Grandview Highway, south of 12th Avenue

Donations of cash and non-perishable food items will be distributed to local charities.

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You may set out your live cut Christmas tree before 7 am on your yard trimmings/food scraps collection day until January 31. Trees should be set out on their own 1 metre clear of your cart(s) and laid on their sides. Do not place your tree inside your cart or bag or bundle it.

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vancouver.ca/christmastree

Canadians won't abandon traditional TV in 2013: Research

Live TV, such as sporting events, will keep the vast majority of Canadian viewers from "cutting the cord" on traditional TV services in 2013, says Deloitte Canada.

The professional services firm is predicting that less than one per cent of Canadians will abandon TV services they're paying for from cable, satellite or telecom providers next year, despite hype around it.

"There are three pillars that prevent cord cutting from content: One of them is reality TV, one of them is sports and the other is news," Duncan Stewart, Deloitte's director of research, said earlier this month.

"Those are things you generally cannot get when you are a cord cutter," Stewart said.

Stewart noted his prediction contradicts surveys and headlines that say almost 10 per cent of Canadians are already cord cutters, watching TV only online with services such as Netflix.

The number of Canadians who pay for traditional TV services is up in the last year, not down, Stewart said from Toronto. "People are spending more on their cable bills."

Canadians watch 28 hours of TV a week, and it rises to 31 hours or 32 hours weekly if online TV is included, Stewart said.

Only 20 per cent of households do not have a frequent sports watcher, he added.

As for 2012, Stewart said his predictions last year that five per cent of tablets would be sold to households that already own a tablet and that half a billion smartphones costing $100 or less would be sold globally were both correct.

Historically, smartphones have cost $600 and $400 for a mid-tier device, but this year, especially in the developing world and in North America, the devices have cheaper models, he said.

He said Deloitte's 2012 tech predictions scored an 82 per cent accuracy level. But he said his prediction that online display ads would grow 50 per cent on the Internet wasn't even close.

Another 2012 prediction that Stewart said proved to be accurate was strong demand for consumer technology, despite economic conditions.

Spending on tablets, mobile phones and software was up, and sales of personal computers were flat this year, he said.

"Sales of TV sets were up this year, even in Europe."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hey, lexicography geeks! May we have a word?

Social media speeds up word development. What new words might be added to the Oxford English Dictionary in '13?

JANE CAULFIELD
Metro in Saskatoon

Paul JJ Payack, the chief word analyst at the U.S.-based Global Language Monitor, which analyzes and tracks the latest trends in word usage, says social media has helped speed up new word development. FLICKR

What do derecho, obesogenic and hen all have in common? According to The Global Language Monitor (GLM), they are newly popular — or newly formed — words that may become part of the regular vernacular in 2013.

"As soon as a word is used by more than one person, it becomes part of the English language," said Yin Liu, associate professor at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts and Science.

An expert in the study of the English language, Liu said getting a word to become an "official" part of the English language isn't as clear-cut as simply adding it to a dictionary.

"Often a word has been in use years before it shows up in the printed version of the dictionary," said Liu.

According to Liu, for a word to be considered "official" it has to be traceable. For instance, the word "gridlock" can be traced to traffic workers in New York in the '80s.

Social media has sped up new word development at incredible rates, says Paul JJ Payack, president of GLM. As an example, he brings up the weatherman who online described hurricane Sandy as a "Frankenstrom," which was then repeated over 90 million times within a week.

"We estimate about 14.7 new words are created a day," said Payack.

Buzz words

The following words are gaining popularity and may become part of the regular vernacular in 2013. Before casually dropping them in party conversations, find out what they mean:

- **Obesogenic** — An environment that tends to encourage obesity. It has been gaining popularity when describing advertisements that sell sugary, high calorie snacks to kids.
- **Derecho** — Also known as a 'land hurricane' — a sudden storm with extremely strong one-directional winds
- **Hen** — The Swedish word aimed at creating a gender-neutral pronoun to replace him or her.

Gender neutral? GETTY IMAGES FILE

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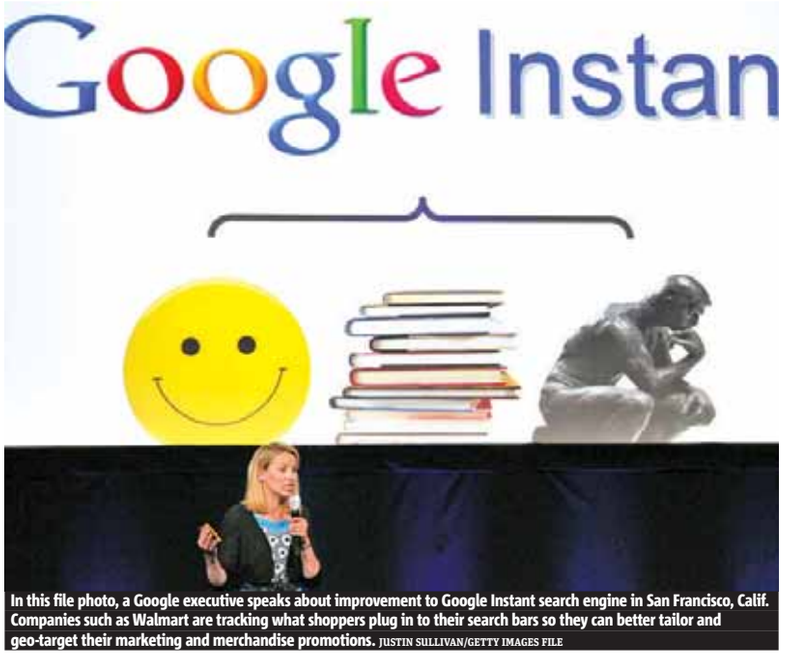

In this file photo, a Google executive speaks about improvement to Google Instant search engine in San Francisco, Calif. Companies such as Walmart are tracking what shoppers plug in to their search bars so they can better tailor and geo-target their marketing and merchandise promotions. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Searching for answers.
Companies use search queries for research

ALEX BOUTILIER
Metro in Ottawa

If you come to Google with questions, chances are you're providing answers of your own.

That's because companies can now track consumer intentions based on what shoppers plug in to their search bars. Given the sheer amount of searches per minute, companies can even isolate data from particular countries, provinces, even cities.

Shoppers on Canada's east coast, for instance, aren't as interested in patio furnishings as people in Vancouver until later in the season, according to Walmart's Drew Cashmore.

"It helps us make more educated merchandizing decisions," said Cashmore, Walmart's director of digital marketing.

"If we know that a particular TV is going to be hot this season, we'll work towards pushing that specific item or brand."

Cashmore said the retail giant is surprisingly nimble at adjusting to the data mined through customers' searches, tailoring messaging and promotion.

But the "database of intentions," as Google calls it, can be used for more than just making sure the right television or cell phone is on store shelves.

Started in 2007, Google Flu Trends was created to model real-world phenomena — in this case outbreaks of influenza — using patterns in user searches.

"The rise in the frequency of certain search terms in a given area matches with the rise of flu activity in that same area," said Google spokesperson Leslie Church, in an email.

"The queries generally include search terms regarding influenza complications, cold and flu remedies and general flu symptoms. Imagine what you would do if your child were sick — you might try to look up a symptom, such as a sore throat."

There are limits to what information can be gleaned from internet queries, however. During the last Canadian election, Dr. Anatoliy Gruzd and his team at Dalhousie University's Social Media Lab attempted to use tweets and Facebook posts to assess who would win.

"We tried to match the data to the other polls, the general polls," Gruzd said in a November interview with Metro News. "(But) not everybody is using social media."

Because the sample was skewed towards a young and technologically-addicted population, the data could not compete with traditional forms of polling.

So much we want to know

57.6B

There are 4.8 billion Google searches per month in Canada alone. That's 57.6 billion searches per year.

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Retail war on Target in 2013

Cheap chic. American discounter is heading north in March, forcing Canadian retailers to up their game

Canadian retailers may be reticent to publicly name that bull's-eyed American foe pushing north next year, but many are revamping, cost-cutting and re-strategizing ahead of the arrival of Target.

While it won't open shop on Canadian turf until March, eager deal-seekers have been buzzing for much of the past year about Target's low prices and chic fashion offerings.

Target Canada throwing its heft into the country's competitive retail mix promises to be a catalytic moment that could be the biggest game-changer since Walmart set up Canadian shop two decades ago. It might also plow down the doors for more foreign retailers closely watching Target's performance north of the border.

"The sky is not going to fall on all other retailers, (Target is) really going to make everybody else that much sharper, that much better," says Jim Danahy, CEO at CustomerLAB and a veteran retailer himself.

"It is going to force all retailers in Canada, regardless of who owns them, to elevate their game. They're that good — they're good at service, they're good at supply, they're good at design."

Consumers win

Target's arrival is also a huge win for consumers as it will create better choice, provoke more price competition, as well as force some outdated retailers to modernize, says veteran retailer Jim Danahy.

In 2013, Target will open the first of between 125 and 135 locations once owned by Canadian retailer Zellers, and is spending about $10 million per store to upgrade and in some cases triple the existing square footage.

Most retailers are quick to say they're unfazed by the entrance of the U.S. retail giant. Still, many big retailers, including Shoppers Drug Mart, Hudson's Bay Co., Canadian Tire and Loblaw have scrambled in the past year to take steps — from job cuts and management shakeups to capital raising and renovations — to cope in an increasingly competitive landscape.

"It will cause Canadian retailers to up their game," says Lori Bieda, executive lead of customer intelligence in the Americas for SAS Analytics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shopping carts sit parked outside a Target store in Marlborough, Mass.
BILL SIKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Offer available to residents of Canada only. †Until December 29, 2012, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2013 Ford [Fusion Hybrid]/ [Fusion (excluding Hybrid), Explorer (excluding Base), Expedition, F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cab)]/Mustang V6 Premium and GT (excluding GT500 and BOSS302), Edge (excluding SE), Escape (excluding S)]/Focus (excluding S, ST and BEV), Fiesta (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2 value leader), F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew (excluding Raptor)], models for a maximum of [36]/ [48]/ [60]/ [72] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 36/ 48/ 60/ 72 months, monthly payment is $833.33/ $625.00/ $500.00/ $416.67, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $30,000. 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Offers include a Manufacturer Rebate of $750/$0/$2,500/$2,500 and freight and air tax of $1,650/$1,650/$1,700/$1,700 but exclude variable charges of license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI (if applicable), registration, PPSA, administration fees and charges, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate deducted. Bi-Weekly payments are only available using a customer initiated PC (Internet Banking) or Phone Pay system through the customer's own bank (if offered by that financial institution). The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract with a first payment date one month from the contract date and to ensure that the total monthly payment occurs by the payment due date. Bi-weekly payments can be made by making payments equivalent to the sum of 12 monthly payments divided by 26 bi-weekly periods every two weeks commencing on the contract date. Dealer may sell for less. 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Class is Full-Size Pickups under 8,500 lbs GVWR vs. 2012/2013 comparable competitor engines. ©2012 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2012 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

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Talking tech predictions for an accelerated 2013

Technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, and there are no signs it will slow down any time soon. 2013 will usher in a new wave of products and consumer technology. Here are a few tech trends you can expect to see in the coming months

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Fuel-Cell Chargers

Recharge your gadgets over and over again without plugging them into a wall socket. Forget oversized batteries used in most portable chargers: Fuel-cell chargers use water, or in some cases lighter fluid, to charge your favourite gadgets up to 14 times. Need more juice? Simply refill the charger with fluid to reset the charging process. This new breed of chargers are small enough to fit in a pocket and use only small amounts of fluid so they're airplane friendly.

Cloud-Based Gaming

Play video games without shelling out big bucks for a high-end gaming console. Cloud-based games are run on remote servers and are streamed to your home. Since the servers do all the heavy lifting, you can run the games on virtually any device such as a television or tablet. You never have to worry about outdated hardware. Microsoft and Sony are both said to be looking at the technology for their new consoles, which are expected to be announced in 2013. In fact, Sony just purchased cloud-gaming company Gaikai. Coincidence?

3D Printing

Create custom jewelry, smartphone cases and even small toys in the comfort of your own home. 3D-printing technology has been around for a few years, but the equipment and supplies have been expensive. All signs now point towards a massive push to the consumer market in 2013. Download a template, press print, and wait while your project comes to life right in front of your eyes. If you're feeling really creative you can use software to design your own custom items. The possibilities are endless.

OLED TV

Each year television displays get thinner and thinner, but this could be the year they finally become paper-thin. Last year at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, both LG and Samsung showed amazing OLED (organic light-emitting diode) panels. These stylized TVs were beautifully designed, boasted rich colour and were a mere 4mm thick. Despite promises they would hit the market in 2012 it never happened. Rumours are the sets are now ready for North American households … at least for those who have deep pockets.

Ultra High-Definition TV

Think your high-definition television has a beautiful picture? Just wait until you see what's around the corner. Manufacturers such as Sony are launching 4K TV, which puts current high-definition sets to shame. Imagine four times the resolution than your current HDTV. I've seen these new sets and I've got to say the picture is jaw-dropping. But so is the price. Is it too early to ask consumers to upgrade their televisions yet again?

Technically speaking

Top 5 tech trends

MICHELLE CASTILLO
michelle.castillo@metro.lu

Including the death of the cable box, and Grand Theft Auto

The rise of the digital media receiver

Over 1 million U.S. cable subscribers ended their subscriptions in 2011, and the trend is expected to continue thanks to more people picking up digital media receivers by companies like Roku and Apple. With these "boxes," users can use streaming services like Hulu Plus, Netflix and Amazon Instant video to watch whatever they want at the time of their choosing.

Xbox 720 vs. PS 4 and Grand Theft Auto 5

The Xbox 720 and Playstation 4 — or Playstation Omni if you believe the blogs — may launch (the latter may measure your heartbeat and take cues from your emotions). Meanwhile, the biggest game of next year could be Grand Theft Auto V, rumored to kick doors down in Q2 of 2013.

New Apple products

You can count on big Apple product launches every year even though you've just upgraded to an iPhone 5. Apple fans are hoping the new year brings an iPhone mini and perhaps an MacBook Air or iPad Mini with Retina display capabilities. There's also talk of an iTunes radio-capable device.

All-in-one Fujitsu Lifebook 2013

While it may function as your basic laptop when put together, the Fujitsu Lifebook 2013 can be broken down to become a tablet, phone and camera as well. How does it work? The digital keyboard can be pulled out to work as a tablet, and the camera can be removed from the front of the computer when it's not in use.

Kickstarter changes business

2013 will be the year that crowdsourced funding becomes a household name. Before, people had to rely on angel investors to launch their startup. Now, they can use their social-media savvy to recruit interested parties to donate a few dollars towards their company. With more people joining, we foresee a revolution.

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WE MUST MOVE FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD; UPWARD, NOT FORWARD ...

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
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Journalism has come a long way since the days when we all wore hats that said "Press" and drank whiskey at our desk. Now we wear hats that say "Internet" and drink Jack and Coke Zero at our desk. We've come a long way, baby.

There have been many changes in the way we collect the news, too. There was a time when the public wanted — and the media delivered — complete, accurate information at the end of the working day, while the kids removed Dad's slippers and Mom made meatloaf.

But now Mom and Dad live apart and the kids are busy sexting, so to fill the gaping void in your life you fill the hole with news, news and more news, every minute, day and night.

Even stories like the Ikea monkey get updated as quickly as possible, because we in the media don't want to look like fools with an out-of-date story about a monkey in a coat.

We will be coming to you live from the Ikea parking lot, dammit, and if the monkey flings some feces, you will hear about it before it hits the ground. That's our solemn promise to you.

This speed has occasionally led to what some may call errors, such as when we kill off people who aren't dead yet. But the fact of the matter is those people will some day be dead. We've only been giving you a heads up. You're welcome.

With that in mind, I've noticed that some of my media colleagues have stuck to their tired old ways by writing a Year in Review. That is so 2012.

Instead, I bring you the 2013 Year in Advance. Here are the stories that will happen next year, before they've happened.

- **Jan. 11:** NASA scientists announce a major breakthrough when the Mars Curiosity rover finds itself. "I want to be a painter," the machine declares.
- **Feb. 5:** Inspired by seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong's example, Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards also denies drug use.
- **April 9:** According to a new report, the Harper government ******** in ********* the ***** transparency.
- **May 15:** Avril Lavigne throws Nickelback into disarray when she teaches fiancé and lead singer Chad Kroeger a new chord progression. Other band members say her "crazy ideas" are threatening to "Yoko Ono" the band's singular sound.
- **Sept. 30:** Meteorologists change the naming system for hurricanes to better reflect reality. Hurricane I Am a Direct Result of Global Warming causes major damage to the U.S. coastline, yet fails to breach the Republican consciousness.
- **Oct. 9:** Will and Kate Plus 8 debuts on the Royal Life Network, as monarchists devour the latest news from Georges I through VIII.
- **Nov. 4:** Toronto Mayor Rob Ford's new 700-page memoir, The Broken Republic: A Treatise on Debate and Democracy, from Plato to the Paris Convention, is hailed as a masterwork of the genre.
- **Dec. 15:** BREAKING NEWS — Ikea monkey has died, Twitter confirms. Oh, wait, he was only asleep. But sources say he will die eventually. You're welcome.

2013 will be the year that media outlets bring you the news before it happens — including round-the-clock coverage of the Ikea monkey.
BRONWYN PAGE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who are we to block the sun?

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Geoengineering

Scientific solution to global warming

A record loss of Arctic sea ice and faster-than-expected melting of Greenland's ice cap made worldwide headlines in 2012, but research published in major science journals suggests warming in the North doesn't have to continue from 2013 on.

Scientists theorize that injecting reflective particles of some kind into the high atmosphere could reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth's surface and compensate for the greenhouse effect.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ethical question

"The really hard questions here aren't mostly technical. They're questions about what kind of planet we want and who we are."

David Keith, a Calgarian and professor of applied physics at Harvard University. Keith said any significant nation in the world has the technological capacity to facilitate a drop in the Earth's temperature.

Save it for an emergency

Cooling the Earth could be a bad idea

In a world that seems unable to come to grips with carbon-dioxide emissions driving climate change, manipulating the Earth's climate to cool it down has some calling geoengineering a bad idea.

The professor behind the idea, David Keith, believes emissions should be cut, and he doesn't advocate such a plan, at least not yet.

He suggested geoengineering may be a viable response to a "climate emergency" — a sudden collapse of ice sheets or a killing drought. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Debate heats up

- The UN has ruled out geoengineering.
- Peter Mooney of the Ottawa-based Etc Group, an environmental technology watchdog, is skeptical of anyone's ability to manage geoengineering.
- "The governments who screwed up in the first place can't be expected to take something like planetary systems management and do a better job of it," he said.

ebooks

2013 is no time to toss the cookbook in the trash

While ebooks have been exploding in popularity in recent years, scholars, chefs and those who just love to tool around in the kitchen say it's not time to stick a fork in the physical cookbook just yet.

Trend watcher Christine Couvelier, who recently passed the 3,000 mark in her cookbook collection, thinks the print format isn't going anywhere, though she also enjoys such innovations as the video clips used with recipes, and stories in publications like Martha Stewart Living that she reads on her iPad.

"There's something about experiencing a cookbook the way the author designed it so the right format is there," said the Victoria-based chef, who noted that some ereaders reformat cookbooks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Paywalls

Newspapers go back to the future

Whether they're lauded as the future of online media or labelled a scourge on the flow of digital information, opinions abound on the rise of paywalls in Canada, and the conversation is only going to get louder. One frequently cited example of such success is the New York Times, but observers caution that the paper is an "elite" product.

Some Postmedia papers — including the Montreal Gazette, the Ottawa Citizen and the Vancouver Sun — have been experimenting with paywalls this year. The company plans to put the rest of its newspapers behind a paywall in early 2013.

The Globe and Mail launched its much-anticipated paywall recently, and the Toronto Star, which boasts the highest circulation in Canada, will also be watching the evolution of its audience very closely once it puts up a paywall in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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From aggressive women to quiet men to androgynous rappers, the new year looks promising

PAT HEALY/EVE HYMAN/CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
Metro World News

5 Bands to listen to in 2013

Savages

One of the biggest buzzes out of this year's CMJ Music Marathon in New York City was Savages, four London women whose punctuated attack on every song is every bit as vicious and thrilling as their name implies. Gemma Thompson plays guitar like she's the runaway teenage daughter of The Edge. Yes, she learned a lot from her old man, but she's still rebelling against him with the way she draws abrasive and occasionally atonal sounds out of the instrument. It's not easy to make out the subject matter coming from singer Jehnny Beth, but it's unmistakably angry, as she flails about like every convulsion is choreographed to the beats of drummer Fay Milton, who just wails on her kit. Holding down all the chaos is bassist Ayse Hassan. The sound is post-punk (sounding like a cross between Joy Division and the aforementioned early U2 thing). They've officially released a single and a live EP, but expect an LP in the first part of 2013. **PAT HEALY**

Mykki Blanco

Mykki Blanco, the alter ego of Michael Quattlebaum Jr., mixes a helping of tribal beats with her radical rap. The solo artist follows in the nontraditional path of recent indie hip-hop a la Odd Future, successfully dipping into punk and electro while retaining individuality. Her profile is bound to go up in the early months of 2013 with the slow and steady reception of praise she is receiving from her November-released album, Cosmic Angel: The Illuminati Prince/ss.
CHRIS LEO PALERMINO

Night Beds

Winston Yellin has the sort of voice that could quiet a huge room. It's not necessarily the Fleet Foxes/My Morning Jacket airy style of delivery that's so effective as much as you can just tell that this is somebody who is saying something that he feels deeply, and there's really nothing much more contagious than that. If his song Even If We Try is any indication, his album, Country Sleep, which will be out on Dead Oceans in February, is going to be a stunner.
EVE HYMAN

Little Green Cars

The hook for this Irish band's recent single, The John Wayne, is "it's easy to fall in love." And with LGC's simple and authoritative harmonic songs, it really is easy. They can weave their voices together as beautifully as any esteemed practitioner of the traditional music of their homeland, but they combine it with a crushing angst and the joy of rocking out. The band are expected to deliver a full-length in the early part of the year.
PAT HEALY

Deap Vally

Considering the oversaturation of bleeps and bloops lately, Joan Jett-esque grrl rock duo Deap Vally are a welcome change. Skimpy, sequined outfits, long hair and heavy rockin' are the name of the game for these L.A. women who are already signed to Island Records and have recently been opening for Muse in Europe. Throw on your jean jacket and get down with Lindsey Troy's raspy vocals.
CHRIS LEO PALERMINO

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The next soon-to-be splits?

For the rich and famous, who divorce as commonly as we take out the garbage, love is a pretty transient notion. Like two yachts passing in the night, celebrity relationships tend to be louche and fleeting. While Kim K and Kris Humphries' mere 72-day-union may be difficult to beat, here are some candidates well worth drafting in the first round of your 2013 celebrity break up pool.

MIKE DOJC, METRO WORLD NEWS

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Avril Lavigne & Chad Kroeger

Prediction: Chad will go ahead and make things so complicated … with the wedding planning. His insistence on hiring a pyrotechnic coordinator, an arctic fox wrangler and an 'I do' mic check man all in a vain attempt to prevent reporters from writing "this was even blander than a Nickelback show" in their wedding reviews will backfire.

Stephen Moyer & Anna Paquin

Playing passionate lovers on TV while trying to keep the magic rolling when the cameras are off is a high wire act — just ask Lucy and Desi. While we don't see Moyer tiring of getting some nookie from Sookie, since Paquin has fairy blood (well, on True Blood she does), we can see her spreading her wings and leaving her post-modern Dracula for a mischievous Peter Pan spirit.

Mike Fisher & Carrie Underwood

Thanks to the lockout, the Predators' gritty centre spent plenty of time lounging around the house in his hockey socks. The mere whiff of what home life may be like when Fisher hangs up his skates may be enough to get Underwood to skedaddle. Now if Fisher were to develop a wandering eye, no on-ice punishment will possibly prepare him for what awaits. Hell has no wrath like a Country singer scorned.

Brian Austin Green & Megan Fox

Donna's boyfriend on Beverley Hills 90210 must pinch himself every morning when he wakes up and comes to the realization that he's in bed with Hollywood's most ogled actress. Green is flexing his previously underutilized comic muscles in his latest gig as the lead singer on Wedding Band, a TBS sitcom. Meanwhile Fox's cleavage steals the trailer to Judd Apatow's This is 40. Both roles may be career altering, creating the kind of festering inequity and resentment that leads to break ups.

Swizz Beatz & Alicia Keys

Keys is Beatz' third wife and they say the third one is the charm. But the prolific producer, who has laid down beats for everybody from DMX to Whitney Houston, seems to also be a prolific player. He's the baby daddy of three other children in addition to Egypt, his son with Keys. It seems like after a few years, his penchant for variety kicks in and the Beatz tends to go on. Can the vivacious R&B chanteuse break the spell or will we soon hear the ominous sound of history repeating?

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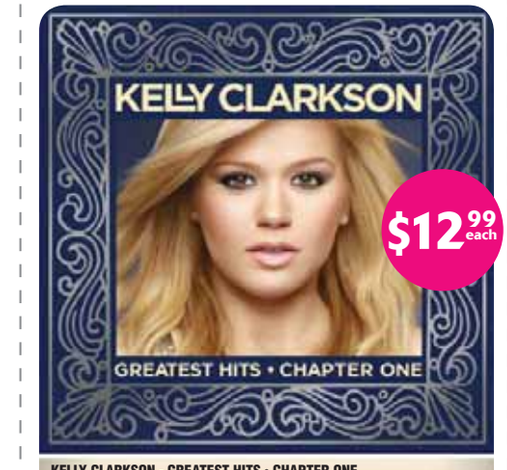

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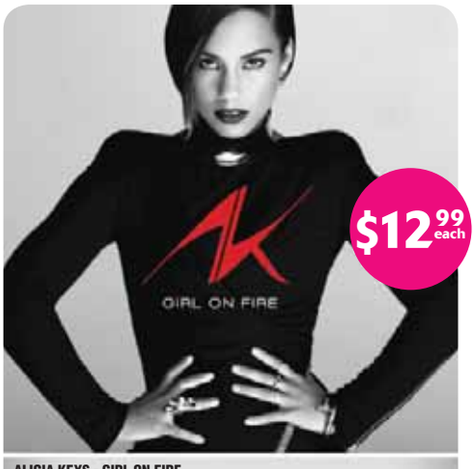

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Cupid, draw back your bow

After reading some tea leaves, shuffling a virtual deck of tarot cards and participating in a séance with an extra from a Kevin Bacon movie (that guy was just seven degrees of separation from every star on the planet), we've divined several fantasy couples the paparazzi will be all over in the new year.

MIKE DOJC
life@metronews.ca

Jennifer Lawrence & Justin Bieber

Sorry Selena Gomez but Bieber is a young buck and he is going to sow his oats. After they call it quits again, he'll cavort with a few models, play the young Hollywood field and then get nostalgic for the good old days when he was half of a glamorous power couple. And the mere sight of the Biebs walking down the red carpet with the Hunger Games hottie on his arm might just start a tweenage riot. On their first date Jen can show her new beau how to string a bow, and the Boyfriend crooner can reciprocate by styling her hair.

Leonardo DiCaprio & Yvonne Strahovski

Leo certainly has a type: blonde tressed, luscious lipped, S.I. Swimsuit calibre model with legs that go on forever. Aussie stunner Strahovski (Chuck, Dexter) hits all those marks and she'd also make an exquisite addition to a "I canoodled with DiCaprio" calendar, fitting right in with former flames Gisele Bündchen, Bar Refaeli, Erin Heatherton, and Blake Lively.

Gerard Butler & Heidi Klum

With Seal now out of the picture, there are plenty of A-list fish in the sea raring to nibble on the Project Runway host's manicured toes. But Heidi knows what she wants so choosing a man is as easy as deciding whether to wear Cavalli or Versace. While Klum's been carrying on with her bodyguard, she'd scotch her security detail with benefits to make schnitzel with this leading man.

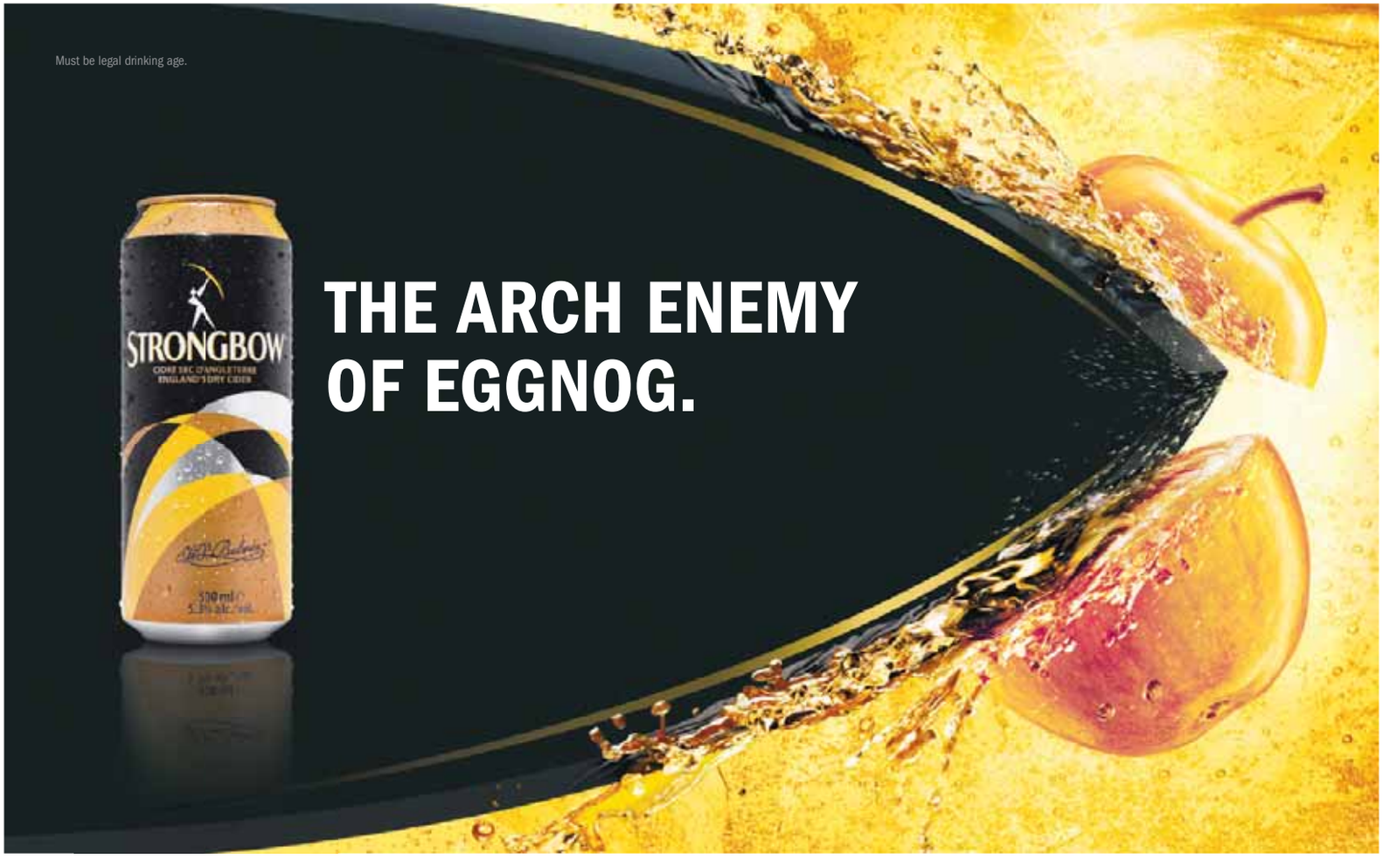
Danny DeVito & Lady Gaga

After splitting from Rhea Perlman, his wife of 30 years, DeVito (It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia) sets his sights on a less age appropriate amore. The timing couldn't be any better for the pop singer known for her unhinged fashion sense either. Gaga could really use a high profile fling even if it turns into a bad romance. Maybe she can even land a part in Triplets, the long awaited sequel to 1988's Twins.

Amy Poehler & Jamie Foxx

After parting ways with hubby Will Arnett this past fall, Poehler (Parks and Recreation) is looking for a new funny man to light up her world. The smooth talking Foxx, who plays the president in White House Down and a freed slave in Django Unchained, is just what the doctor ordered to get sassy Poehler back in the relationship game.

Must be legal drinking age.



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2013 is here and Julian Brass, founder of Canada's largest website for young professionals, has his Notable calls and predictions for trends young Canadian professionals will be creating and embracing in the year after the 'end of the world.'

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Selected spotlight

Over the last several years our lives have become seriously public. People know where I went last night, when I wore my favourite blazer last, and that I'm going to be in Vancouver next week. We're sick of our privacy not being, well, private, but we do enjoy the affirmation that people are listening, RT'ing, and "liking" our last post.
Notable call: We'll continue to share our latest, but we'll become increasingly selective on what that is.

Quality, culture, cocktails and cuisine

It wasn't a trend. The growing sales in premium spirits combined with the intrigue of the Mad Men era and the push toward locally sourced, premium ingredients has seriously refined the average young professional's palette and fashion-sense. Bottom line — this year we are all more cultured and so are our tastes.
Notable call: More refinement in young professional style, restaurant choice, and cocktail choices. Salud!

Death of the blogger — rise of the 'influencer'

The number of bloggers blew up over the years, but blogging is a commitment that for many is tough to keep up. With so many ways to "subscribe" or "follow" the peeps you care to hear from, the fully-employed young professional is becoming increasingly influential and the scantily updated blogs are becoming less read.
Notable call: Less blog updates and bloggers, more individual personalities with social influence.

Wellness for the young professional

You or someone you know is doing yoga. You or someone you know is reading a self-help book. And, I would also be willing to put a few dollars on the fact that you or someone you know is more concerned with their diet this year than they were the last. We care more about being healthy, fit and happy than ever.
Notable call: Young professionals will find more time for themselves to enjoy the things they already love. Essentially, more me time.

Marginalized sense of cool

What's in is not being in. Get it? Fitting in is way out of style. Being an individual — now that is notable. Nobody cares about keeping up with the Joneses anymore. We care about our individuality, our values, our unique style, and being our own "cool."
Notable call: We'll be seeing more individuality in how we set up our desks, fashion we wear, music we listen to and places we choose to socialize.

Travel more, stay less

Every day we see photos of our friends' and colleagues' last trip. We see the inexpensive travel opportunities everywhere. We hear the stories and sip the metaphoric margarita in Mexico or the awesome Australian adventures.
Notable call: More travel for less time. Young professionals will be boarding more flights and pulling out their passport more often, but each time they do, they'll be getting their "vacay-fix" for less time.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

A THEATRESPORTS LOOK AT THE YEAR THAT WAS.

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Actors to watch ... they will be stars in 2013

Selena Gomez

Where we've seen her: Practicing magic on the Disney Channel's Wizards of Waverly Place, and on the arm of Justin Bieber — though not as much lately.

Why she'll be big in 2013: Don't pigeonhole this former child star just yet. Gomez turns in an attention-grabbing performance in Harmony Korine's Spring Breakers alongside Vanessa Hudgens and James Franco in a film described as "Scarface meets Britney Spears."

Key quote: "Don't see it," Gomez said when asked what she'd tell her younger fans about Spring Breakers.

Teresa Palmer

Where we've seen her: As a gun-toting alien refugee in I Am Number Four and donning 1980s fashions in Take Me Home Tonight.

Why she'll be big in 2013: The charming Australian actress finds herself the object of a zombie's affections in Warm Bodies, out in early 2013, and later in the year she shares the screen with Christian Bale, Natalie Portman and Cate Blanchett in Terrence Malick's Knight of Cups.

Key quote: "You never know when the next up-and-comers will be in the spotlight so people forget you. There's no guarantees," says Palmer, keeping lists like these in perspective.

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley

Where we've seen her: Working the runway for Victoria's Secret, on the arm of Jason Statham, running from robots in Transformers: Dark of the Moon.

Why she'll be big in 2013: Hopefully we'll get to see her go toe-to-toe with Tom Hardy in the Mad Max: Fury Road

Key quote: "All the actresses are taking everything over now, with all the modeling endorsements and magazine covers," Huntington-Whiteley says of her old business.

Nicholas Hoult

Where we've seen him: As an awkward tween in About a Boy, a conniving teen in Skins, flirting with Colin Firth in a Single Man and donning blue fur in X-Men: First Class.

Why he'll be big in 2013: He's headlining both Warm Bodies and Bryan Singer's massive Jack the Giant Slayer. Plus Singer says that Hoult will definitely be back as Beast for X-Men: Days of Future Past.

Key quote: "He has absolutely no idea how good-looking he is," Hoult's girlfriend Jennifer Lawrence says of him.

Dane DeHaan

Where we've seen him: Using his superpowers for evil in Chronicle and making moonshine with Shia LaBeouf in Lawless.

Why he'll be big in 2013: He steals scenes from Daniel Radcliffe in Kill Your Darlings and from Ryan Gosling in the Place Beyond the Pines, and he's just been tapped to play Harry Osborne in the next Amazing Spider-Man.

Key quote: "I don't know that I do spend a lot of time preparing myself for stardom," DeHaan says. "When someone comes up to me and tells me they really like me, I just say thank you."

Anthony Mackie

Where we've seen him: Defusing bombs in the Hurt Locker and betting on fighting robots in Real Steel.

Why he'll be big in 2013: He teams with Josh Brolin and Ryan Gosling in Gangster Squad. Then he's got Michael Bay's action comedy about murderous bodybuilders, Pain & Gain, alongside Mark Wahlberg and Dwayne Johnson.

Key quote: "He's turned into a hot fudge Sundae since I worked with him the last time," Mackie says of re-teaming with Half-Nelson co-star Gosling. **MWN**

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Celluloid Soothsayers

On the eve of the 21st century's Bar Mitzvah, we dissect three films that were set in 'future' 2013. Maybe it's the pall of unluckiness associated with the number 13 in Western culture, but dystopian scenarios were the consensus.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Escape from L.A. (1996)

Snake Plissken, Kurt Russell as a monosyllabic scofflaw with an eye-patch and a permanent five-o'clock shadow, is charged with retrieving a doomsday device from Los Angeles, a city converted into a massive prison colony after a devastating earthquake separated it from mainland California. **Prediction:** John Carpenter imagines a fascist America where the constitution has been shredded. Smoking and red meat are verboten, all marriages must be approved by the department of health and wave goodbye to freedom of religion too. **Reality:** California's coffers have been savaged. Governor Jerry Brown came into office last year saddled with a crushing $28 billion budget gap, the weight of which threatens to turn the residents of this financially underwater state into debt slaves paying sky-high taxes. **Verdict:** While the San Fernando Valley may not be surfable, it is drowning in red ink.

District 13: Ultimatum (2009)

Damien and Leito are back for another parkour-fuelled adrenaline ride. This time they're defusing a civil war that is breaking out between the five gangs living in D13, the walled-in Parisian ghetto from the first flick. **Prediction:** Parkour will become de rigueur on the urban street, with gangbangers turning rues into their personal jungle gyms. **Reality:** Free-running spring-legged Frenchmen vaulting, climbing and freewheeling over everything in their path is a far less common sight on the streets of Paris than sad-eyed mimes or young lovers locked in the country's vaunted kissing style. **Verdict:** Sure, parkour may not be the new skateboarding, but you do see a lot more of the kinetic art form on network television.

The Postman (1997)

Kevin Costner, always a sucker for pretentious, lengthy epics à la Waterworld, couldn't resist starring as a post-apocalyptic superstar in this 177-minute snoozer. **Prediction:** Resuscitating a defunct postal service is key to bringing hope back to a bedraggled society. **Reality:** While all-out nuclear war doesn't appear to be on our doorstep, postal services the world over are certainly hurting as mail volume drops and the USPS is fathoming closing more offices and ending Saturday delivery service. **Verdict:** When it comes to forecasting the future, what we have here is a failure to deliver, but Tom Petty is good for a couple half-hearted yuks as a future version of himself.

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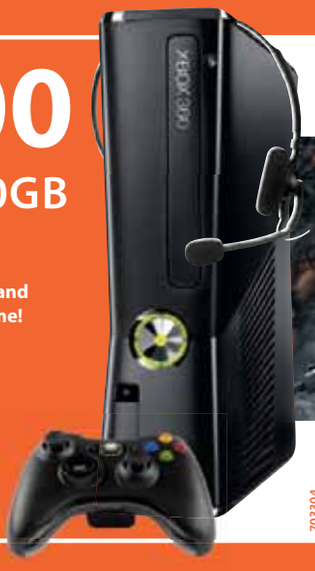

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THE BIG MOVIES OF 2013

Star Trek: Into Darkness

JJ Abrams has been keeping us waiting four years for the followup to his fantastic reboot of the sci-fi juggernaut. But if it's anything like the first film, the wait will have been well worth it. And with Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch coming onboard in a highly-speculated-upon villain role, odds are it will impress.

The World's End

Speaking of long waits, Edgar Wright is going to finally — finally! — release the last entry in his Cornetto Trilogy, after Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz. The film follows pals played by Simon Pegg and Nick Frost as they relive a pub crawl that may or may not coincide with the apocalypse.

Ender's Game

Science-fiction fans have been waiting a long, time for a film adaptation of Orson Scott Card's tale of kids training to battle aliens, but the wait is (almost) over. The cast is stacked with the likes of Harrison Ford, Sir Ben Kingsley and Viola Davis, plus high-brow younger talent like Hailee Steinfeld (True Grit), Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine) and Asa Butterfield (Hugo) as Ender.

World War Z

The behind-the-scenes squabbling of this Brad-Pitt-starring zombie flick might prove to be more entertaining than the movie itself, but we're morbidly curious to see the results either way. Last we heard, the ending was completely rewritten and reshot, and Pitt and director Marc Foster were only speaking to each other via third parties.

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Don Jon's Addiction

After learning on the job from directors like Steven Spielberg, Christopher Nolan and Rian Johnson in 2012, Joseph Gordon-Levitt steps behind the camera himself for the first time with this modern-day take on Don Juan, co-starring Scarlett Johansson. Gordon-Levitt also stars and wrote the screenplay.

Warm Bodies

This romantic comedy — about an undead boy (Nicholas Hoult) who falls for a potential victim (Teresa Palmer) looks to have plenty of wit, charm and life to it. It's no Twilight.

Elysium

District 9 auteur Neill Blomkamp brings some social commentary to the summer blockbuster with a big and loud action film about the haves and the have nots, immigration reform and environmental issues. In the film, the one per cent live on a pristine space station orbiting the ruined Earth. Matt Damon stars.

Man of Steel

There's a lot riding on Zack Snyder's attempt to reboot the Superman franchise seven years after Bryan Singer's droopy Superman Returns. If it succeeds, it will serve as the jumping-off point for the Justice League, DC Comics' attempt to steal some of that Avengers thunder from rival Marvel. But will new star Henry Cavill make an impression with audiences? Can Snyder redeem himself for the awful Sucker Punch? We'll know by June 14, for sure.

The Great Gatsby

This one was set for a Christmas 2012 release before being shunted to the following summer, which normally isn't a great sign, but whether that's a vote of no confidence in Baz Luhrmann's ambitious take on the American classic — shot in 3D — is yet to be seen.

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5 Delicious food trends for 2013

Food trends don't come out of nowhere; they grow and evolve from years passed and embody the current thinking and influences of a culture. Like other artists, chefs get inspiration from the world around them, searching for new and tongue-tickling treasures. Fresh ideas, ingredients and techniques are highlighted in culinary competitions like Bocuse D'or in France, which serves as inspiration to restaurants first and then trickle into the mainstream. The following year, we see grocery stores and retailers introducing these same flavours and trends to give us home cooks a chance to play along. Next year will see us continue on a healthy/wholesome kick.

BY THERESA ALBERT, MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Year of the whole beast ...

"Nose to tail" cooking has been around for a few years as chefs strut their peasant pleasures and use up every bone and organ an animal can offer. Now, the idea has come home to roost. Look for "whole beast" parties to surge. Head on, big meals like roast suckling pig, whole duck on a spit and a whole salmon in a big backyard smoker will treat you this summer.

... and the veggies

As our global luck would have it, the opposite trend has taken hold as vegetarians, vegans and flexitarians take the reins. Veggies as a main dish won't be relegated to the sidebar. Look for kale, collards and other greens to be dressed for success with beans for the vegans and sausage or bacon for the rest to make a whole meal. It's a good thing too, because the numbers show that we still aren't eating nearly enough greens.

Off the rails taco fusions

Tacos are king but it isn't just the ground beef and chili powder variety that will make the grade anymore. Look for fusion flavours with Asian cabbage and Harrisa paste in a classic corn tortilla. The wilder the combo, the cooler it will be. Creative textures, shapes and sizes of the shells will morph too ... ice cream cone filled with pulled chicken with crème fraiche, anyone?

Seaweed so good

Darwinian beings came from the sea and now we go back to it for taste and nutrients. Seaweed is a huge "new" (yet ancient) food. No longer just wrapped around sushi or as dulse from the east coast, expect to find it in crackers, breads, as a topping and a snack. Seaweed, after all, contains more minerals than any other food on the planet. Look for sushi nori to crop up in salads and other recipes, and flavoured seaweed to come to a potato chip aisle near you.

The tiniest taste

Mini-me is key. Everything small is big. Going further than the tapas trend, this one allows one mouthful of a pleasure to be enjoyed while leaving room for healthier fuel; baby burgers will incorporate herbs and greens, mini grilled cheese, mini corn dogs and super cute cubes of cake satisfy. Perhaps we have figured out that it doesn't have to be massive to hit the spot. (Here's hoping!)

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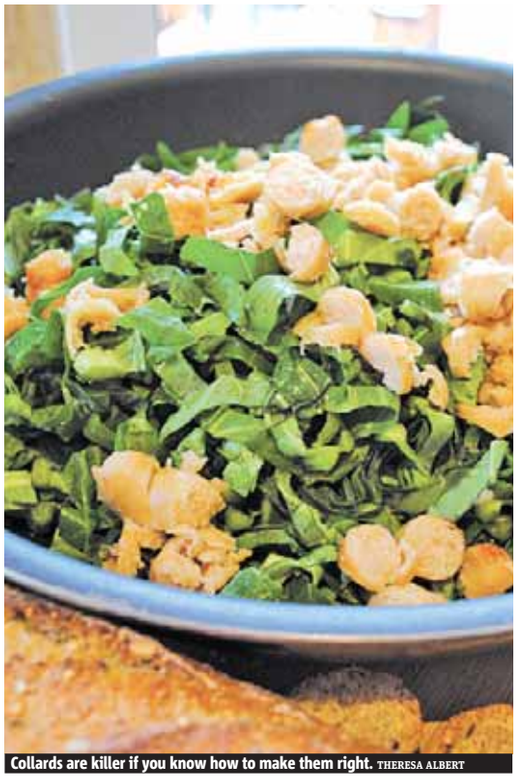

Collards are killer if you know how to make them right. THERESA ALBERT

Collard Greens are cheap and yet are one of the most popular vegetables. What a combo!

Many, though, don't know how to cook them. In the Southern U.S. they simmer them low and slow. Brazilians sliver them into thin strips and do a quick sauté. Our method is somewhere in the middle to save you time and keep the leaves al dente.

This flexitarian meal can be completely vegan or sausaged to the nines to suit your group. Keep toppings separate and serve as a main course with a crusty loaf of bread and some nice hummus or sharp cheese.

1. Rinse greens and chop off stems. Discard. Roll leaves width wise in stacks of 4 or 5 leaves. Slice thinly across the leaf (chiffonade) to create ribbons that are about ¼ inch thick or less. Place into a large pot with a lid containing ¼ cup of water. Bring to a boil, then turn down to simmer over medium-high heat to cook down for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in butter, honey, salt and white pepper. Simmer further for 15 minutes.

2. Place toppings in bowls on the table and serve with warm bread.

3. Enjoy!

THERESA ALBERT

Ingredients

Serving Size: 8, prep time: 10 minutes

- 2 bunches collard greens — about 10 cups chopped
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 teaspoon salt (or less to taste)
- 1 teaspoon white pepper

Toppings

- 2 cups cooked breakfast sausage, cooked bacon or canned white beans that have been warmed

Sushi for dummies. Add salmon, chicken or pork for extra taste

Ingredients

Serves 4, Prep Time: 5 min

- 2 Cups, cooked, short grain rice (or any other leftover rice)
- 2-3 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 cup sliced cucumber
- 1/2 cup carrot, grated or shaved
- 1/2 cup diced red pepper
- 2 sheets toasted nori, ripped or cut into pieces
- 1/2 avocado

1. Place rice on individual plates or bowls.

2. Season with vinegar and soy sauce — stir with a fork (so rice doesn't clump together).

3. Top with remaining ingredients.

THERESA ALBERT

Theresa Albert is a food communications consultant and nutritionist in Toronto. She is @theresaalbert on twitter.

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Baby Spinach Burgers with Blue Cheese

Yum. Turkey beef burgers with a twist

For an extra-lean version, try bison instead.

THERESA ALBERT

1. Finely chop baby spinach and set aside. In a large bowl mix bread crumbs, egg, ketchup and Worcestershire and both ground meats.

2. Mix baby spinach into burger mixture.

3. Form 12 small oval patties with the burger mixture and set aside on a cookie sheet. Preheat a cast iron skillet, smear with a drizzle of oil and wipe with paper towel. Cook 4 to 6 burger patties at a time over medium heat for 15 to 20 minutes, turning once or twice.

4. For Blue Cheese Sauce: mix sauce ingredients together in a small bowl to serve as topping.

5. Serve 2 to 3 mini burgers on whole wheat dinner rolls with a side salad or veggies to dip as an entree or just one as an appetizer.

6. Dig in!

THERESA ALBERT

Ingredients

Serving size 4, prep time 15 minutes

- 1 cup spinach leaves
- 3/4 cup bread crumbs, seasoned
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp ketchup
- Few shakes Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pound extra lean ground beef or bison
- 1/4 pound ground turkey
- 4 whole wheat dinner rolls

Blue Cheese Sauce

- 1/2 cup plain low-fat yogurt
- 2 ounces blue cheese
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- salt and pepper

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What can you expect for 2013? Check the horoscopes

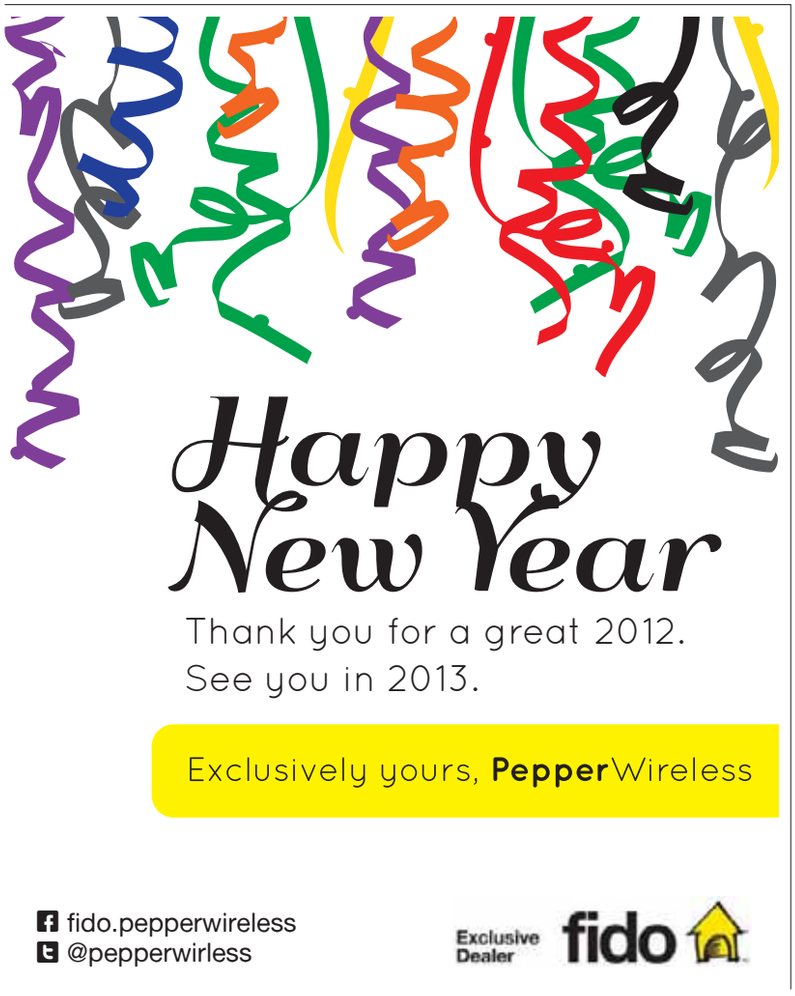
Career, romance, family — just check your astrological sign. ISTOCK IMAGES

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20

The New Year has arrived and with it loads of responsibilities. Expect to be thrown into uncanny situations throughout 2013 that will unfold into valuable lessons, ones that will teach you more about yourself than others.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21

Career will be challenging for the first part of 2013. However, with patience by mid 2013 you will not drive yourself up the wall hoping for that perfect job because you will realize you are already in it, or magically you will be placed into it.



♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21

Romance and personal relationships will be a concern in the first quarter of 2013, but by spring you experience a shift in the romance department and your focus will be friendship and family. One tip: Try not to take people too seriously. Especially those who take themselves way too seriously!

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23

Think more progressive and positive. You have the tendency to over think things way past the point of healthy pondering and at times that causes you to undertake unnecessary emotional torment caused by thought. In 2013 you can flip the script just by flipping your thought pattern.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23

This entire year will be one of personal challenges for you. Don't fret, these will be positive challenges. You will be learning facts about your character, ones that you may not like so much. Nevertheless, this will cause you to practice new personality skills and by 2014 you will feel like new.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

In 2013 people will appreciate that you do not have to be told what needs to be done. You just get it done. You will be viewed as on-the-ball and that means Managers, supervisors, co-workers, friends and family, will flock to you for advice regarding a multitude of concerns.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Do not be discouraged when plans refuse to unfold according to your wishes, and especially in the love department. Expect fluctuations of high ups and low downs and you will not be disappointed when loved ones say one thing but do another. Just do your best to be your best and 2013 will be relatively cool.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Some people feel you can be harsh at times. Like the ol saying goes "it's a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it" and you do it well because you know how to keep it real. So in 2013 when you are packing a punch do not second guess or guilt trip yourself... You gotta do what ya gotta do!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

This will be a year of love, joy and peace for you. Of course there will be some bumpy roads during the ride, but nothing will be too much for you to handle. Winter brings love. Spring will offer joy in career. Summer brings peace. Fall will have you busy like a bee, but you will make loads of honey money.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

In 2013 if anyone dares to impose havoc on you or anybody you care for they will feel your wrath. Your authoritative side will rise up in February and it will not ease up until early Fall. Nevertheless, your gentle side will be freely given to those who behave.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Listen to your heart. It will speak loud and clear all throughout 2013. Your gut instinct will be on point and if you ignore your intuition you will want to kick yourself. So to prevent unnecessary upset, pay attention to your inner voice and follow through on what it is saying. Your own advice will be the best advice.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

Money will flow to you more regularly in 2013, but first you will have to develop a better relationship with dollars and coins by saving your cash and refusing to spend frivolously.

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SPORTS 4

Fed up fans to lock out NHL with boycott pledge

A view of an empty Rexall Place, home of the NHL's Edmonton Oilers. After months without hockey due to a lockout, will fans be back in the stands if the season returns in the new year? TIM SMITH/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Fan tweets

Will you tune in to hockey if the NHL returns in the new year?

@taboada93:
I don't think so it's so sad with how they're handling the NHL lockout. It's dragging on badly

@xonor8:
NO NO NO

@dhfromkw:
Yes, good things are worth waiting for. MTS Centre is always electric. Love being part of it.

@AlanSimpson:
No. What goodwill that was built by the return of the Jets is gone. Again.

@Primlar:
I plan to avoid as many @NHL games as are locked out, once a deal is reached. They lose this season, I'll skip 2013-14.

@dkwesty:
NO!!! going to stay with WHL And Sylvan Lake Admirals etc.

Just Drop It. Campaign calls for hockey supporters to drop everything related to the sport after Dec. 21

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Steve Chase and his friends pledge to boycott one NHL game for every game cancelled after Dec. 21 and they're sticking by it.

The 55-year-old commercial director, a Montrealer who lives in Los Angeles, started a grassroots campaign called Just Drop It that encourages fans to drop everything hockey-related — no merchandise, no TV, no game tickets.

"We don't want to destroy our game," he told Metro. "We just want them to pay attention to us.… We decided a fair thing would be to just make it one for one. If you cancel a game, we cancel a game."

Chase created a video that has been viewed a total of 100,000 times on YouTube and Vimeo, as well as a Facebook page, which already has more than 19,000 likes.

"Our goal was to be heard," he said. "We're knocking on the door of that meeting saying, 'Guys, we're the people paying you. We're a little annoyed that you're disregarding and disrespecting us.'"

Chase said he hopes fans will live up to the pledge's challenge.

"I hope people stick to it because we need to send a little bit of a message: 'Guys, don't do this again,'" he added.

But Dr. Joti Samra, host and psychologist on the Oprah Winfrey Network's Million Dollar Neighbourhood, said that fans may be upset now about the contract negotiations, but they're not going to be able to resist the temptation.

"When it comes to sport we're pretty forgiving fans, whether our team is playing or not, whether they win or not," she said.

"It's frustrating now because for a lot of people the big part of their social activities revolve around sports, especially this time of year when the days are shorter, and people are inside more … but fans are fans. They will support the team at the end of the day no matter what."

Quoted

"They will support the team at the end of the day no matter what."

Dr. Joti Samra on the psychology of sports fans

Steve Chase started a grassroots campaign called Just Drop It that encourages fans to show their displeasure with the lockout by boycotting one NHL game for every game cancelled after Dec. 21. SCREEN GRAB

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Hot Canadian athletes to watch

PHILIP CROUCHER AND MATTHEW WUEST
Metro in Halifax

Steve Nash

By the time the NBA playoffs roll around, the spotlight will be squarely on Vancouver's Steve Nash and the Los Angeles Lakers. The 38-year-old two-time most valuable player is in his 17th season and is still in search of his first NBA title. On a team loaded with big-name talent — Kobe Bryant, Dwight Howard, Pau Gasol and Metta World Peace — the Lakers are supposed to be the Western Conference's answer to the Eastern Conference's defending champions, the Miami Heat. But plenty of questions remain about whether the Lakers can put it all together as Nash strives to finish his illustrious career a champion.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

Georges St-Pierre

It will without question be the biggest fight in MMA history. Montreal's Georges St-Pierre is expected to square off against UFC middleweight champion Anderson Silva sometime in 2013 in what is being dubbed simply the "super fight." St-Pierre and Silva are considered the best pound-for-pound fighters in MMA, and the showdown should finally put to rest the question of who is the best. St-Pierre goes into 2013 on a high after winning a blood-filled five-round decision over Carlos (Natural Born Killer) Condit in November to unify the welterweight title. He also showed he has lots left in the tank after missing 18 months due to knee surgery.

Nathan MacKinnon

METRO HALIFAX

The electrifying forward from Cole Harbour, N.S., has been the front-runner to be selected No. 1 overall in the NHL draft for more than a year now. MacKinnon, 17, raises fans of the Halifax Mooseheads out of their seats with his high-octane speed and ability to score goals in bunches. He hails from the same hometown as Sidney Crosby — generating comparisons between the two despite significantly different styles of play — and is facing plenty of competition from Portland Winterhawks defenceman Seth Jones, among others. The battle could go right down to the wire on the draft stage at Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., on June 28.

Milos Raonic

With almost $1.2 million in prize money and two tournament victories, 2012 was certainly kind to Toronto's Milos Raonic. But with success comes higher expectations and Canadian tennis fans from coast-to-coast will be looking for this 21-year-old power server to elevate his game even further in 2013. Fans will be watching closely at the four majors too, where Raonic went 8-4 this year. His best finish came at the U.S. Open where he made it to the quarter-finals before dropping a straight-sets decision to Andy Murray.

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES FOR ATP WORLD TOUR

Graham DeLaet

SCOTT HALLERAN/GETTY IMAGES

Graham DeLaet isn't a household name to most Canadian golf fans but 2013 could be the year he becomes one. The Weyburn, Sask., native is coming off a solid season on the PGA Tour. DeLaet played in 23 tour events in 2012, made 17 cuts, finished in the top five twice and earned a cool $1.05 million. His best finish was a tie for fourth in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, and in the FedEx Cup playoffs DeLaet made it to the third round. All that's really left is his first PGA tour victory, which many think could happen in 2013.

Luongo trade rumours fly coop as lockout continues

Vancouver Canucks goaltender Roberto Luongo looks up ice against the Florida Panthers on Jan. 9 in Sunrise, Fla. Trade rumours involving Luongo have subsided during the lockout. JOEL AUERBACH/GETTY IMAGES

This space was supposed to be reserved for some wild and whacky Roberto Luongo trade rumour.

For what it's worth, it still seems like the Vancouver Canucks goaltender, usurped this past April by Cory Schneider as the starter for that position, is destined to be a Toronto Maple Leaf soon — or a Florida Panther? — after this nonsense NHL lockout finally concludes.

But, until then, consider the matter embargoed.

It seems dealing the former No. 1 man in the Canucks crease has, in the minds of local fans, not only taken a back seat to the ongoing labour war but been left at home entirely.

Even those ardently opposed to having Luongo back in a Canucks uniform — a gold medal at the 2010 Olympics and a berth in Game 7 of the 2011 Stanley Cup final doesn't cut it with some folks — would probably welcome him with open arms if it meant doing away with the lockout.

That's the way it is. Luongo is a polarizing figure. His greatest moments walk hand in hand with his ultimate blunders. As a result, Luongo has attracted a great number of detractors within the Vancouver faithful.

By the numbers

.919

Luongo's save percentage during the 2011-12 regular season. In two games during the playoffs, that percentage dipped down to .891.

But what hockey fan is really talking or thinking about this at this particular moment?

The game at its highest level has been put on hiatus as high-priced lawyers — in what can only be assumed to be expensive suits — work to settle various monetary and contractual issues, which are the subject of a new collective bargaining agreement.

Until such an agreement is struck, ending the lockout, any and all Luongo trade rumours share the same status as an ugly Christmas sweater or last night's turkey dinner.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

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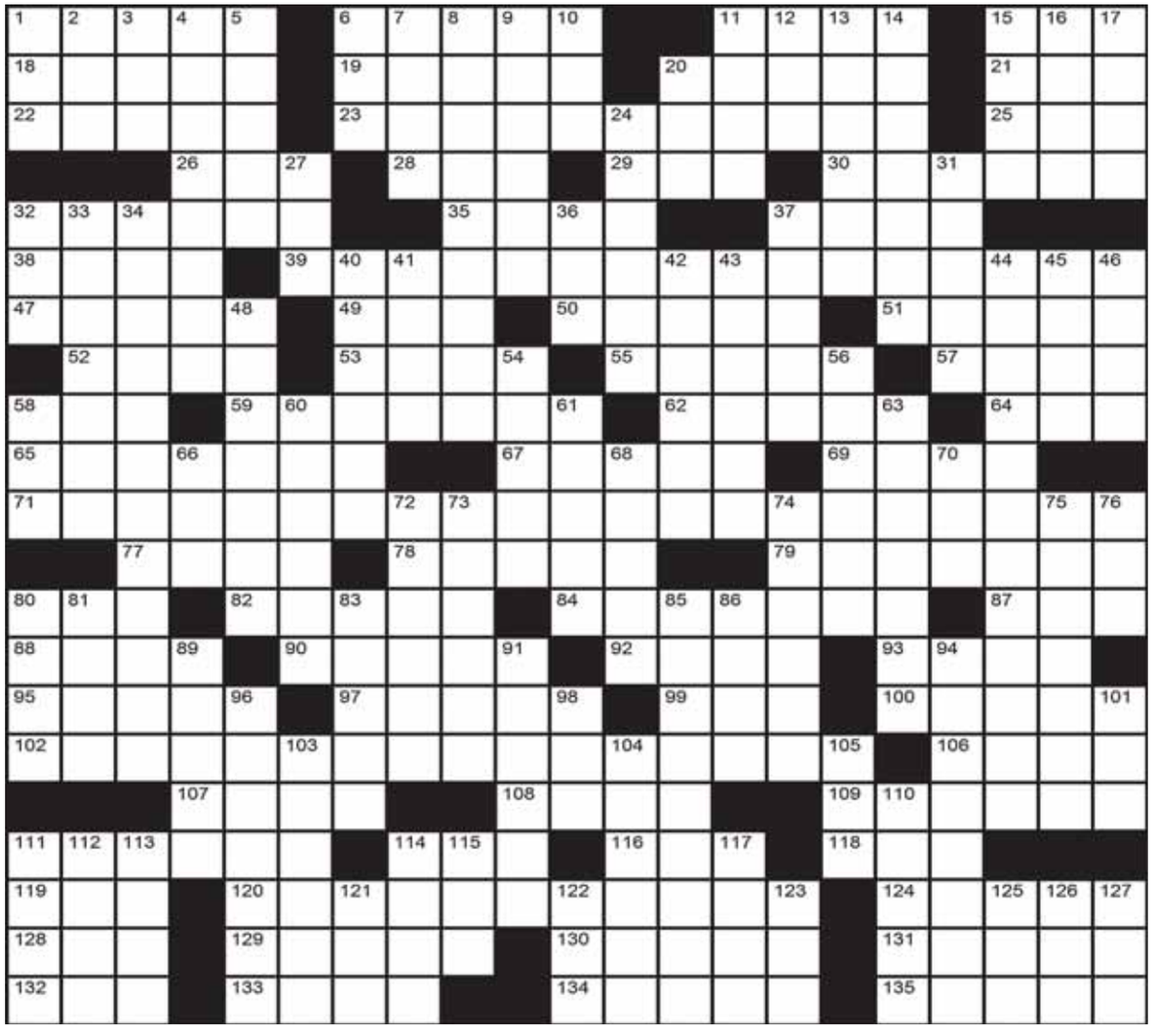

Across

1. Syrup or leaf
6. NAFTA part
11. Niagara Falls' Maid of the __
15. Russian city where Canada is now competing in hockey's 2013 World Juniors
18. Recipe instructions phrase
19. Mr. Quinn
20. Venetian traveller Mr. Polo
21. Chitchat
22. "Baby Beluga" troubadour
23. Prisoner 24601
25. Ex __.
26. Honest __, Toronto
28. F.D.R as F.R. instead
29. "Star Trek" starship, partially
30. Scarth Street locale
32. Levy
35. Tiara twinklers
37. Tabula __ (Clean slate)
38. Newbie
39. Etiquette expert in Metro
47. Suzette's serving
49. "Well, now!"
50. Sea nymph
51. Harmony
52. Hairstyling request
53. Cuts wood
55. Moray catcher, say
57. Close-fitting
58. Deorbited space station
59. WWI: Harry Colebourn's "Winnipeg"
62. #23-Across hideaway
64. Natural __
65. What an extra might have in dialogue
67. Elton John song
69. Specialist
71. It culminates (federally) on April 14th, 2013
77. Network VIP
78. Ewoks' forest moon home
79. Comes forth
80. John A. Macdonald
82. Hockey great Mr. Mikita, and others
84. Justin Timberlake, formerly
87. Mini Martians
88. Beverage company
90. Shoulder scarf
92. Calendrier component
93. Patsy Gallant disco hit: "From New York __"
95. Wee hours time
97. "__ you loud and clear."
99. Movie studio
100. Quick bite
102. Marianas Trench and Hedley
106. Thunderstruck
107. Single-named supermodel
108. Utmost degrees
109. "Battle of the Blades" champ Ms. Bonhomme's
111. Dancer's move
114. Fruit drink
116. Oprah's __! moment
118. Tom Mulcair's letters
119. Snowy __
120. Scotiabank __ (Literary award)
124. Toy company
128. Keanu's 'Matrix' role
129. Gnaw geologically
130. Falcon-headed deity
131. "1234" songstress
132. Caravansary
133. HGTV undertaking
134. Sluggish
135. Pup's protests!
54. Lunchtime order
56. Fitness __
58. Actress Gretchen
60. Makes official
61. French artist, Odilon __ (b.1840 - d.1916)
63. Territory the Hudson's Bay Company controlled, __ Land
66. Supervillain Mr. Luthor
68. Vice __
70. Basic learning, informally
72. Edgar Allan Poe poem
73. Eve __ (Playwright/activist)
74. Trojan hero
75. Whales' order
76. Feminine suffix
80. Sketch show
81. Hawkeye State
83. 'Decor' finishing
85. English setting of "Downton Abbey"
86. Microwave
89. Be silent, in music
91. Breadwinner
94. Making the most of Boxing Day sales
96. Kris Jenner, to The Kardashians
98. Polka's partner
101. ms. lang's
103. Diamond arbiter
104. River Styx ferryman
105. Subway stop, shortly
110. Enlighten
111. Ms. Braxton
112. Sound, Ontario
113. PayPal co-founder Mr. Musk
114. Shoe store
115. Canadian comic Gerry
117. Cote d'__ (French Riviera)
121. Mr. Chaney Jr.
122. Greek letter
123. Founded, for short
125. Actor Mr. Wheaton
126. Web connector [abbr.]
127. Days opp.

Down

1. Feb.'s follower
2. Inman's beloved in "Cold Mountain" (2003)
3. Comp. file
4. Yann Martel's book-turned-movie
5. Barenaked Ladies' title lady, and others
6. __ Mahal
7. Nothing: French
8. "Cash Cab" host
9. Mr. Lanois, U2 producer
10. Letter's li'l jacket
11. Mil. ranks
12. Pique
13. Ancient Egypt's divine beetle
14. Gets in shape
15. Certain citrus
16. Gladly
17. "Dancing Queen" band
20. Real estate acronym
24. Kangaroo logo shampoo
27. Minute bit
31. Billionaire Bill
32. Company name abbr.
33. 007's drink
34. The Arctic Grail author
36. 'My' in Montreal
37. Freshen
40. Backpackers' lodging
41. Captain in 1956's "Moby Dick"
42. Lancome Paris perfume
43. Ms. Mirren's
44. They concern signage in Quebec
45. Quito is its cap.
46. Mr. Philbin, et al.
48. Royal realms

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